

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel ClC-7 the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channels ClC-7 of the ClC family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the channel chemical compound; and

measuring the ability of the compound to block the selected chloride channels ClC-7 chloride transport.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating an osteoclast related bone disease, which is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.

12. to 17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A method for screening chemical compounds for potential activity in the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability of the compounds to block the chloride channel ClC-7 of the ClC family.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel ClC-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels ClC-1, ClC-2, ClC-4, ClC-5, ClC-Ka and ClC-Kb.

22. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel ClC-7.

23. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising ~~one or more~~ the chloride channel ClC-7 channels of the ClC family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and

measuring the ability of the compound to block the ClC-7 chloride channel ~~one or more chloride channels~~.

24-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, ~~osteopetrosis~~, or Paget's disease of bone.